REPORT

OF

EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION (N. S.)

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31,

1971

QUEEN'S PRINTER
HALIFAX, N. S.

TO HIS HONOUR,

The Honourable Victor deB. Oland, E.D.,

Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

I have the honour to submit herewith a Report of the Emergency Measures Organization (Nova Scotia) for the fiscal year ended 31st March, A.D. 1971.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

BENOIT COMEAU,

Minister Responsible for Emergency Measures Organization (N.S.) Halifax, Nova Scotia.

101-05132/

REPORT

OF

EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION (NOVA SCOTIA)

For the Year Ended 31st March 1971

GENERAL

1. This report is for the year 1970 only. Previous Annual Reports have provided details and statistics of the development of this branch.

2. Of particular interest, and of real significance to those directly concerned, the Emergency Measures Organization of Nova Scotia has, by Order in Council dated 27th January, 1971, been included permanently within the responsibilities of the Minister of Lands and Forests. This will provide the continuity that has been lacking in the past.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND AIMS

3. The Emergency Measures Branch is responsible for the development and co-ordination of civil emergency planning, for continuity of government and for the continuation of the normal functions of government departments and agencies in major peacetime disasters and war emergency.

4. The aims of this Branch continue to be:

a. In conjunction with Canada Emergency Measures Organization, to develop in peacetime civil emergency plans and preparations for the relocation and continuity of government, and to ensure the capability of the

Province of Nova Scotia to survive and recover from the effects of a war emergency;

b. in conjunction with Canada Emergency Measures Organization and the Provincial Government departments and agencies, to develop plans and preparations to deal effectively with any scale of peacetime disaster;

c. to assist the Departmental Planning Officers with the preparation of civil emergency plans for their department;

d. to assist the municipal governments with the preparation, organization, planning and training for civil emergencies and peacetime disaster;

e. to conduct training courses for both governmental and private individuals commensurate with their role in civil emergency;

f. to organize, train and provide an effective Radiological Defence System throughout Nova Scotia;

g. to make liaison with Canada Emergency Measures Organization and the Canadian Forces with regard to their emergency plans,

h. to plan for and have available emergency communications from the zone to municipal level in war emergency;

i. to prepare for provincial and municipal participation in national, provincial and municipal emergency exercises.

LEGISLATION

5. The Emergency Measures Branch continues to operate under the authority of the EMO(NS) Act, Chap. 87 RS of Nova Scotia 1967, and Regulations promulgated under authority of the Act:

a. Regulations Regarding Fire Protection (the Nova Scotia Emergency Fire Service) dated 27th August 1968;

b. Regulations Regarding the Nova Scotia Emergency Police Service, dated 18th April 1969;

c. Regulations Regarding the Emergency Welfare Service, dated 13th January 1970;

d. Regulations Regarding the Emergency Health Service, dated 30th June 1970.

ORGANIZATION

6. Following the Provincial elections in October, the Minister appointed to be responsible for the Emergency Measures Organization of Nova Scotia, was the Honourable Benoit Comeau.

7. In May 1970, Mr. J.A. Gray was appointed Planning Officer, with special responsibilities in the field of emergency transport control, the Provincial civil emergency plan, and liaison with the administration of the cities of Halifax and Dartmouth and Halifax County with regard to their civil emergency planning.

8. A new Director of Emergency Welfare Services, Mr. Lawrence Mills, was appointed in July 1970, and he has already done much towards organizing a viable service.

9. The Province continues to be divided into three zones for the purpose of administration and emergency operations. In a national emergency, each Zone Headquarters would function as the centre of government for the zone under the central control of the Regional Emergency Government Headquarters.

10. The Zones are as follows:

a. Western Zone - West Hants, Kings, Annapolis, Digby, Shelburne, Yarmouth, Queens and Lunenburg Counties, with headquarters in the Post Office Building, Kentville.

b. Central Zone - East Hants, Halifax, Guysborough, Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester and Cumberland Counties, with headquarters in the Post Office Building, Truro.

c. Cape Breton Zone - The whole of Cape Breton, with headquarters in the Provincial Building, Sydney.

11. In each of these Zones is a Zone Controller, a full-time member of the staff of EMO (NS), and included in his responsibilities is that of guidance and assistance to each of the municipal governments in his Zone, in the development of their civil emergency plans and to co-ordinate their plans with provincial plans for emergency government.

OPERATIONS

12. When the tanker "ARROW" grounded in Chedabucto Bay, and it quickly became evident that a major oil spill was taking place, polluting some 190 miles of shoreline, the Nova Scotia Government appointed a special Cabinet Committee to be responsible for Provincial interests. This Committee consisted of the Minister of Trade and Industry, the Honourable G.C. Ritcey; the Minister Responsible for EMO (NS) and of

Mines, the Honourable Percy Gaum; the Minister of Lands and Forests, The Honourable George Snow; the Minister of Fisheries, the Honourable J. Buchanan; and the Minister Responsible for the Water Resources Commission, the Honourable D.R. MacLeod.

13. The Assistant Director of EMO (NS), Mr. Raefe Douthwaite, was made responsible directly to the Chairman of the Committee and with representatives from each of the departments concerned, went to Port Hawkesbury and reported to the Federal Command Group which was in charge of operations under Dr. P.D. McTaggart-Cowan.

14. From that time until the close of operations of 15th July 1970, the Emergency Measures Organization of Nova Scotia represented Provincial interests on the Operations Command Group, reporting to the Chairman of the special Cabinet Committee, and co-ordinated all requests of the Province by the Group and, the pattern having been set, Mr. Douthwaite was relieved on a rotation basis by the three Emergency Measures Organization Zone Controllers, Mr. J.S.G. Pratt, Mr. E.M. Ogilvie and Mr. Roy MacEachen from Kentville, Truro and Sydney respectively.

15. The Provincial office assisted the Towns of Stellarton, Truro and Bridgewater during the spring floods, with obtaining demolition teams from the Canadian Forces, for ice-jam blasting, and the use of an ice-breaker for the LaHave River.

16. The Emergency Measures Organization for the Town of Bridgewater demonstrated the value of a competent Emergency Planning Officer, with a practical municipal emergency plan and an organization to make the plan viable. During the flood emergency, Mr. N. Dupuis had the situation well in hand at all times and, in fact, closed the bridge to all traffic some thirty minutes before the ice-jam above broke taking out the bridge and doubtless by this action prevented serious accidents. Apart from the normal traffic, a number of

people had been standing on the bridge watching and photographing the ice.

MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION

17. The policy of subsidizing municipalities for the purpose of civil emergency planning was discontinued at the end of the last fiscal year, the intention of which was reported in the Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 1970.

18. The new policy whereby direct service to local governments for the purpose of civil emergency planning would be provided by the staff of the Emergency Measures Organization, Nova Scotia, has worked as well or even better than expected. Forty-seven municipalities have appointed members of their administration, the municipal clerk in most instances, as their Emergency Planning Officer, and seven councils are considering the question. In one or two cases someone other than a member of the administration has been appointed, but because civil emergency planning is a government responsibility, all contacts by the Zone Controller in this regard have been made with the municipal clerk.

19. This policy of working in close co-operation with local government has given them the opportunity of becoming much more aware of our aims, and how EMO (NS) is able to be of assistance to them in any type of disaster.

PLANNING

20. The provinces have a responsibility for Road Transport Control in time of national emergency, a responsibility accepted by Nova Scotia and the other provinces at the Federal-Provincial Ministers Conference on Civil Emergency Planning, held in Ottawa in 1965.

21. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles, Mr. Don Tully, has been appointed the Road Transport Controller, designate, who would

act under Federal authority. Mr. Tully replaces Mr. John Millard, who resigned last October.

22. The emergency plan of the Emergency Welfare Service is proceeding well, with all field personnel accepting important supervisory and director roles. It is expected that the plan, with the necessary organization, will be completed by the end of 1971.

LIAISON

23. The Emergency Measures Branch continues to enjoy excellent working relationships with the other departments of the government, all of which were particularly helpful when called upon during both clean-up operations in Chedabucto Bay, and the flood conditions in February and March.

24. This close working relationship includes the Regional Director for Nova Scotia of Canada Emergency Measures Organization, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian Forces.

ZONE EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS

25. Space has now been allocated in the new Post Office building in Sydney, for use as a Zone Emergency Government Headquarters for Cape Breton, and action is in progress to equip it with the emergency stores and equipment commensurate with foreseeable needs in a major peacetime disaster or war emergency, and similar to that in the other two Zone Headquarters in Kentville and Truro respectively.

26. It is expected to be ready for occupancy by the Fall, at which time the Cape Breton Zone Controller for the Emergency Measures Organization (NS) will move in and establish the EMO office, moving from their current location in the Provincial Building, Sydney.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY PLANNING

27. Municipal governments are proceeding well with their civil emergency planning and local organizing. The value of such planning and organization was demonstrated twice this year by the town of Bridgewater, where the Emergency Planning Officer operated quickly and efficiently during a heavy snow-fall which threatened the town in January, and again in February when ice and flood waters carried away the bridge across the LaHave River at Bridgewater.

TRAINING

28. Courses and seminars in connection with the various skills associated with civil emergency planning have been conducted at major centres throughout the Province, both at the provincial and the municipal level. Such courses include Emergency Health, Emergency Welfare and its affiliates, Auxiliary Police, Rescue and Radiological Defence.

29. Insofar as Federal courses at the Canada Emergency Measures College, Arnprior, Ontario, are concerned, seventy-one (71) candidates attended from Nova Scotia during 1970. A total of one hundred and sixty-eight (168) attended Provincially sponsored courses at the municipal level.

CONFERENCES

30. The Assistant Director, EMO(NS), the Nova Scotia representative on the committee, attended the annual meeting of the National Emergency Measures Advisory Committee, in Arnprior, the main theme of which was the type of training now necessary in the field of civil emergency planning and how best it could be carried out.

31. In September, the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. V.M. Knight, attended a Senior Officers' Seminar at the Canada Emergency Measures College, which included a series of briefings on the international situation by prominent leaders

in their various fields from both Canada and the United States of America, the place in Canada today of civil emergency planning and the responsibilities of the various levels of government.

32. The Director, EMO (NS), Mr. Cyril F. Kennedy, and Assistant Director, Mr. Raefe Douthwaite, attended the annual Conference of Provincial Directors of Emergency Measures Organization also held at the Canada Emergency Measures College, at which the main discussion centered around the new Federal emphasis of the responsibilities of the Emergency Measures Organization at all levels of government with regard to peacetime disaster operations.

33. A conference of Municipal Clerks was held in the Regional Emergency Government Headquarters, Debert, which was attended by fifty-three (53) Municipal Clerks or their representatives from their administration. The purpose of the conference was to discuss civil emergency planning, with the emphasis on peacetime disaster. The conference was considered a success, and a request was received by the Minister Responsible for EMO (NS), from several Municipal Clerks who had been unable to attend, to hold another conference in the near future along the same lines. It is intended to hold such a conference in the Fall.

COMMUNICATIONS

34. The Amateur radio (Ham) operators provided an efficient communications link at Bridgewater in February, when the ice and flood waters took out the bridge, telephone and power lines, and the water supply to the East side of town. This emergency link provided the only means of communication between the town of Bridgewater and Halifax until the telephone lines were restored.

35. The radio link from the Regional Emergency Government Headquarters to Zones continues to be available, and the Provincial emergency network using the facilities of the Department of Lands and Forests and the Department of Highways also continues to be available in case of emergency.

FINANCIAL

36. The Province continued to participate in the Federal-Provincial Financial Assistance Program, receiving a refund equal to 75 percent of all Federally approved expenditures for civil emergency planning, from the Federal Government.

37. As agreed with the municipalities, an honourarium of $250.00 was paid to all participating municipalities on behalf of the Emergency Planning Officers.

38. The amounts expended and recovered as compared to the fiscal year 1969-70 are shown as follows:

Province of Nova Scotia	**1969-70**	**1970-71**
Expended by EMO(NS)	$103,323.58	$148,191.07
Recovered from Gov't of Canada	$ 79,690.00	$ 63,281.93

39. The amount of $63,281.93 shown as recoveries from Federal Government for the fiscal year 1970-71 is not a true figure. An additional amount of $48,718.07 was received in May of this year. The new total of recoveries for 1970-71 will show $112,000.00.

CONCLUSION

40. From a review of major peacetime disasters which have occurred in widely dispersed areas of the world over the past few years, it has become obvious from the point of view of the local government concerned that an adequate civil emergency plan can be priceless as an emergency situation begins to develop, if all routine as well as predictable actions or decisions have been defined in the plan.

41. As a result of this, all efforts can then be concentrated on unpredictable or unusual circumstances which may develop. Actions taken to cope with an emergency situation as it begins to develop may prevent a disaster from developing into tragedy.